

**CHURCH MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

On September 25th, Hiram was confirmed at Iglesia Luterana Fuente de Vida, in Ponce after taking catechism classes for the last 6 months with Pastor James Neuendorf. Hiram's son Luis has been a long-time member of the church. Hiram enjoys cooking and along with Luis has been cooking dinner during fellowship nights on Fridays. Welcome Hiram to the family of faith!

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT:

Saturday October 8th, Fuente de Vida hosted a craft workshop time for the community. We had three different harvest themed crafts. We are so thankful to have pumpkin kits made by Immanuel Lutheran Church - Seymour IN mission board! We have been continuing to focus on fellowship and bringing people into the mercy house through these types of events. It's always a lot of fun and a great way to build relationships with fellow church members and friends.

NEW MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:

Opening doors to new ministry opportunities with nursing home visits. We received a request through our church's Facebook page from a nursing home near church to help with crafts. It is a home with 12 adults all above the age of 90. They are craving to hear God's word and have not been visited by a pastor for a long time. Pastor Gustavo Maita is visiting them weekly and bringing church members along. For the first Tuesday visit, Pastor Gustavo, Missionary Ashley, Deaconess Christel, and church friend Maria visited the nursing home. There was singing, painting, and reading of devotionals. What a blessing to be able to visit this nursing home and share the love of Jesus with them.





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our Missionaries in Belize recovering after Hurricane Lisa.
- My trip to Belize at the beginning of November for the Annual Volunteer Coordinators Conference.
- A Short-Term Team from Esko MN coming to serve here in Puerto Rico in the middle of November
- The visitors we had at church this month.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The Police officers who helped direct traffic during the week long power outage after Hurricane Fiona.
- Luma, the electrical company in Puerto Rico for working hard to restore power to the Island.
- Martin Luther and the reformation.



REFORMATION SUNDAY



The highlight of our month was our joint reformation service between both of our mission' congregations here in Puerto Rico. We started the morning in Mayaguez with breakfast at 9:30am and Divine Service at 10am. The service was attended by twice as many visitors as church members. One visitor stood out in particular, she is an elder lady who had taken a taxi, that provides free rides to church and medical appointments for seniors, from her home about an hour away. Here in Puerto Rico instead of passing a collection plate around the pews, during the offering, the congregation is invited to bring their offering to the front. We had just finished the ofertorio and Pastor Gustavo was about to start the service of the sacrament, but he was brought to a pause as this visitor slowly walk to the front of the church clutching her coin pouch. In the silence of the church, she places all her coins in the offering basket giving a perfect example of the Widows Offering in the Gospel of Mark.

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)

I don't know the status of this lady's income or what brought her to our church this particular Sunday but what a powerful lesson this lady taught me through her small act of giving to our Lord.

After an uplifting service we loaded up the vehicle and drove to Ponce to join our brothers and sisters in Christ for a day of fellowship and fun. Although the weather for the day was a torrential downpour, and our outdoor plans needed to be suspended and the rented bouncy castle (A Mighty Fortress) laid unused in the mud, every room of our Mercy House was packed with people and buzzing with activity. We sang classic Lutheran hymns and new hymns from our brand-new Spanish hymnal; we enjoyed a nice German lunch, and everyone joined together for a somewhat ridiculous reformation drama (I played Johann Tetzel). The entire day of festivities culminated into one of our highest attended church services with several visitors who had never attended our church before and both congregations together receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

You can support my work by giving online to www.lcms.org/lehr or

A check can be made payable to the **LCMS** with **Ashley Lehr** in the memo to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central

Adopt me as your missionary by visiting missioncentral.us/Lehr/

A check can be made out to **Mission Central** with "A10899-69467" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central 40718 HWY E16
Mapleton, IA 51034
888-THE LCMS • lcms.org • infocenter@lcms.org | 2

